# Additional Opportunities:

Family Interaction Program: Volunteers support children in out-of-home care by supervising their interaction with parents.

Pals Program: Volunteer mentors spend time in a recreational or learning activity with a child that has been referred by Brown County Child Protective Services. Volunteer mentors help the child adjust to change, enhance self-esteem and confidence, and learn new skills.

Parent Pals Program: Volunteer mentors spend time with parents referred by Brown County Child Protective Services who have identified an interest in having an informal support in their lives.

**Volunteer Drivers:** Assist with transporting children and families safely to and from authorized visits and appointments.

# **Contact Information:**

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#### **About:**

Established under Chapter 54 of the Wisconsin Statutes, Guardianship is a legal relationship created by the county circuit court to provide a ward deemed incompetent with a guardian to:

- 1) Exercise rights the ward is mentally unable to exercise
- Make decisions the ward is mentally unable to make
- Be an advocate for the ward's interests



## **Responsibilities:**

Guardians act as an advocate for their ward. This includes authorizing, coordinating and supervising medical care as needed.

- Volunteers should have regular contact with the ward (at least once a month) to ensure proper care and treatment.
- Complete a simple annual report form for the Brown County Probate Office regarding the status and condition of the ward, and if applicable, complete an annual account if finances are handled.
- Submit a monthly report of hours volunteered.
- Follow all State of Wisconsin statutes pertaining to guardian's responsibilities with the ward.
- Maintain confidentiality of the ward's personal information.
- Volunteers should also be available by phone for possible emergencies.

### **Reimbursement:**

An optional monthly stipend of \$15.00 per ward plus reimbursement for expenses such as postage and mileage reimbursement at the annually established rate is available

#### **Process:**

Individuals interested in becoming a Volunteer Guardian can expect to go through the following steps:

- Complete an application which includes consenting to a background check and providing three references.
- Provide a copy of a valid driver's license and verification of auto insurance.
- Attend orientation and training provided by Adult Protective Services staff.
- Receive assignment of a ward from Adult Protective Services staff.

# Training:

Initial orientation is provided to all volunteers by Adult Protective Services staff. The intent is to familiarize volunteers with goals and services and to provide volunteer guardians with the necessary background to carry out their duties and responsibilities. Case specific assistance from Adult Protective Services is on-going. Individual and group trainings are available. Volunteers are also invited to local and regional workshops.